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## VARIATION IN THE ORTHOGRAPHY AND INFLECTION OF ENGLISH LOAN-WORDS IN GERMAN

Although English loan-words in German speech are not a new phenomenon, it is only in recent years that they have come to play an important rôle, a part quite similar to that played by French loan-words during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In spite of the laudable efforts of the *Allgemeine Deutsche Sprachverein* and other similar organizations, which in their aims and propaganda recall the *Sprachgesellschaften* that flourished especially in the seventeenth century, it is at the present time considered good form in certain circles of German society, especially among the "upper ten thousand" in large cities like Berlin and Hamburg, to include in one's vocabulary a choice assortment of English terms, although in many instances a German equivalent would answer just as well. This mania is encountered in an exaggerated form in some of the modern hotels, which contain signs reading "American Bar," "Elevator," "Telephone Booths," "News Stand," "Theatre Tickets," "Barber and Manicure," "Grill Room," etc. Similarly almost every modern German novel or society drama teems with English words; in one of Sudermann's latest works of fiction, *Das hohe Lied* (1908), for example, we find (*es ist*) *settled, Farmen, unclean, at first sight, Terrier, Trip, Setter, Clownerie, Bobbi, Boy, Lady patroness, Whisky, american drinks, money-making, Tailor-made* (= tailor-made gown), *Dandies, Slang, stop, Flirt, Bars, streiken, Grillrooms, snobig, Swell, Tea-gown, Tips, Selfmademan, Pedigrees, managen*, etc. For a long list of similar words I would refer the reader to Max Meyerfeld's *Von Sprach' und Art der Deutschen und Engländer*, Berlin, 1903; and to an article by the author, "Englische Lehnwörter in der deutschen Umgangssprache," *N.Y. Staats-Zeitung*, August 18, 1907.

It is not my aim to discuss in this article the reasons for this influence or to enter in each case into the chronology of the borrowing or the question of the precise etymology; I merely wish to consider the variations in orthography and inflection that still exist owing in most instances to the recency of the borrowing. The

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diversity in form is particularly noticeable in the case of substantives, which constitute the large majority of the borrowed terms and to a consideration of which I shall, with a few exceptions, confine myself here. I have selected for discussion the words found in the latest (8th) edition of Duden's *Orthographisches Wörterbuch* (1906). There is, to be sure, a long list of English terms current in German that have not yet found their way into the dictionary, but they lack all stability and their forms are legion. I have seen "shampoo" spelled in half a dozen different ways in Germany and heard it pronounced in as many. The appearance of a word in the dictionary is apt to fix its form more definitely; yet in spite of this we shall observe quite extensive variations at least recognized if not officially permitted. In the lists here given are included not only words of direct English origin, but also terms of foreign origin—Indian and East Indian, for example—that have entered the German language by way of the English, although in a few instances there may be some doubt of this. I have also included words current in French or Dutch as well as English where the exact source of the borrowing is not known.

An instance of varying usage is still found in the treatment of English *c*, chiefly initial *c*, although in the majority of cases *k* and *z*, respectively, have displaced the *c*, and it is only a question of time when the former will occupy the field to the complete exclusion of the latter, not only initially, but also medially, and in the case of *z* for *ce* also finally. As late as 1902 (Duden, 7th ed.) initial *c* was permitted in words like *Cake*, *Caucus*, *Coaks*, *Cricket* and *Croquet*, and *Cinder*; whereas today *k* and *z*, respectively, are the correct forms. Among the words which had previously adopted the *k* may be mentioned *kantern*, *Karronade*, *Klosett*, *Klub*, *Komfort*, *Kommodore*, *Konstabler*, and *Kutter*, while, on the other hand, *City*, *Clan*, *Clown*, *Cold-cream*, *Collie*, *Corned beef*, *Count*, and *Curry* retain the *c* to this day, as do *Dogcart* and *Watercloset* (beside *Wasserklosett*). Medially the change is illustrated by the word *Handikap*, which in 1902 still allowed the *c*. *Receiver* has retained the *c* to this day, while in *Boykott*, *Detektiv(e)*, *Makadam*, *Mimikry*, *Mokassin*, *Rekord*, *Self-aktor*, and *Skrip*, and in *Fenz*, *Spenser*, and *Temperanz* . . . , the *c* has been displaced by *k* and *z*, respectively.

Similar fluctuation is noticeable in connection with initial *sh*, which occasionally becomes *sch*; witness *Schirting*, *schocking*, and *Schrapnell*, although on the other hand we still have *Sherry*, *Shoddy*, and *Sheriff* (but also *Scherif*). Note furthermore in this connection *Manschester*, *Scheck*, *Punsch* (= *Getränk*, beside *Punch* = *Hanswurst*), and *Anschove* and *Anschovis*, the latter being preferred to *Anchovis*, which in 1902 was the first form given. Considerable variation is also found in connection with the treatment of English initial *s* before *l* and *m*, as observed in *Schaluppe* (also *Sloop*), *Schlemm* (also *Slam*), *Schmack(e)* (preferred to *Smack*), and *Schlips*, versus *Slang*, *smart*, and *Smoking* (= Tuxedo coat), whereas initial *sp* and *st* are naturally preserved, as in *Speech* (masc., not fem.), *Spenzer*, *Spillage*, *Spleen*, *Sport*, *Spray*, *Standard*, *Start* and *starten*, *Steeplechase* and *Steepler*, *Sterling*, *Steward* and *Stewardesz*, *Stockjobber*, *Stocks*, *stoppen*, *Store* (= *Warenlager*, not *Fenstervorhang*), *Streik* and *streiken*. Similarly we have *Square*, *Squatter*, and *Squire*. A strange confusion has arisen in connection with the word *Moleskin*, which is spelled with a final *s* instead of a long *s*, although the latter form is permissible; *Buckskin*, on the other hand, is written properly with a long *s*, although in 1902 the final *s*-form was still given as a variant. The mistake of course arose through the application of the rule that when two medial consonants follow one another, the last one begins the new syllable, hence *Moles-kin*.

An attempt to arrive at a closer approximation to German forms is also seen occasionally in the doubling of a single consonant or the simplification of a double consonant, as in *Aldermann* beside *Alder-man*, *Schlemm-Slam*, *Schrapnell-Shrapnel* (earlier), *Top-Topp*, *Brigg*, *Bulldogg(e)*, *Dogge*, *Waggon*, and *Wasserklosett*, and *Sheriff-Scherif*. Orthographical alterations of this nature are of course usually necessitated by the German pronunciation, the agreement between orthography and pronunciation being so much closer in German than it is in English. Thus a marked tendency exists to reproduce the English sound by its German orthographical equivalent, irrespective of the English spelling. This is illustrated by words like *Antelope*, *Biest*, *Boleine*, *Daulas* (formerly *Dowlas*), *Drän* (formerly *Drain*), *Dschungeln* (pl.), *Känguruh*, *Kanu*, *Kuli*, *Lori* (formerly *Lowry*), *Mohär* (formerly *Mohair*), *Pickels* (but *Mixed Pickles* and

*Mix-pickles*), *Plunscher* beside *Plunger*, *Puddel* . . . , and *Streik*. *Jockei* has replaced *Jockey* and chintz becomes *Zitz*. Note also *Pick(e)nick* (neut., not masc.). *Neuorleans*, *Neuyork*, etc., are commonly used beside New Orleans, etc.

The first thing to be noted in connection with the nominal inflection of English loan-words in German is the fact that a considerable number of them retain the English nominal plural in *-s* (or *-es*), although the tendency is gradually to substitute German plural forms. Among words that still take a plural in *-s* (or *-es*) may be mentioned *Bar*, *Baronet*, *Barrel*, *Beefsteak*, *Bill*, *Break*, *Brigg*, *Brougham*, *Buckskin*, *Clan*, *Clown*, *Collie*, *Count*, *Davits* (pl.), *Dingo*, *Dissenter*, *Dogcart*, *Dollar*, *Drän*, *Drops* (pl.), *Flammeri*, *Foxterrier*, *Gig*, *Gin* (= *Maschine*, besonders zur Baumwollreinigung; also *ginnen*, *die Baumwolle reinigen*), *Grog*, *Groom*, *Handikap*, *Havelock*, *Interview*, *Jockei*, *Kake*, *Kanu*, *Klub*, *Koks* (usually pl.), *Kuli*, *Lasting*, *Lord*, *Lori* (beside *Loren* as pl. of *Lore*), *Maidenspeech* (but pl. of *Speech*=*Speeche*), *Match*, *Meeting*, *Minstrel*, *Miss*, *Mister*, *Mokassin*, *Moleskin*, *Mustang*, *Mylord*, *Natives* (pl.), *Nurse*, *Oddfellow*, *Opossum*, *Paddock*, *Palaver*, *Pedigree*, *Peer*, *Pickels* (pl.), *Plaid*, *Pointlaces* (pl.), *Puzzle*, *Racket*, *Roastbeef*, *Rumpsteak*, *Sandwich*, *Schrapnell*, *Selfaktor*, *Sheriff*, *Skrip*, *Sovereign*, *Square*, *Squatter*, *Squire*, *Steward*, *Stocks* (pl.), *Store*, *Tandem*, *Tattersall*, *Top*, *Trade-Mark*, *Tübbings* (pl.), *Turnip*, *Velvet*, *Warrant*, *Watercloset*, *Waterproof*, *Whig*, *Wigwam*, *Yankee*, *Yard*. The change is illustrated, for example, by words like *Cinder*, *Detektive*, *Rekord*, *Sarsenett*, *Schirting*, *Tomahawk*, *Trick*, and *Waggon*—which in the seventh edition required an *-s*; whereas in the eighth the plural forms are *Zinder*, *Detektive* and *-s*, *Rekords* and *-e*, *Sarsenette*, *Schirtinge* and *-s*, *Tomahake* and *-s*, *Tricke* and *-s*, *Waggons* and *-e*.

In the case of nouns ending in *-y*, two plural forms are found, one in *-ys*, which is the prevailing form, and the other in *-ies*. This applies to *Baby*, *City*, *Dandy*, *Jury*, *Lady*, *Paddy*, *Pony*, *Rowdy*, *Sherry*, *Tilbury*, *Tory*, and *Whisky*, while *Gully* and *Mylady* have only the plural in *-s*, and *Penny* has *Pence* beside the plural in *-s*. Where the ending is *-ay*, the plural in *-s* is naturally the sole one, as in *Essay*, *Spray*, and *Tramway*. *Gentleman* and *Midshipman* take the plural *-men*, while in the case of *Alderman* the form in *-men*

is preferred, although *-mans* is also used, and besides we get *Aldermänner* as the plural of *Aldermann*.

The first class of English nouns to lose their plural in *-s* were the words in *-er*, the great majority of which are now treated like strong nouns of the first declension so far as the formation of the plural is concerned, i.e., they take no ending. This rule holds for *Bar-rister*, *Boxer*, *Digger*, *Farmer*, *Flibustier*, *Interviewer*, *Knickerbocker*, *Konstabler*, *Kutter*, *Latitudinärer*, *Manschester*, *Nigger*, *Partner*, *Plunger*, *Porter*, *Puritaner*, *Receiver*, *Reporter*, *Revolver*, *Robber* (=rubber, as in whist), *Saker*, *Spencer*, *Steepler*, *Stockjobber*, *Teetotaler*, *Temperänzer*, *Tender*, *Trainer*, *Trapper*, *Trimmer*, *Zinder*, the exceptions being *Dissenter*, *Foxterrier*, *Mister*, *Palaver*, and *Squatter*, which, as we saw above, take a plural in *-s*, and several variant forms mentioned in the following paragraph.

In another group of words both German and English plural forms are used side by side, as has been seen above, the tendency being to retain only the former. Thus we have in addition to a number of double forms already mentioned *Boxen* beside *Boxes*, *Docke-Docks*, *Filme-(Films)*, *Jobber-Jobbers*, *Kommodores-Kommodoren*, *Lifte-Lifts*, *Lunche(s)*, *Pick(e)nicke-Pick(e)nicks*, *(Plum)puddinge-(Plum)puddings*, *Propeller(s)*, *Rums-Rume* (*mehrere Gläser*), *Schecke-Schecks*, *Schlemme-Schlemms*, *Sloopen-Sloops*, *Starte-Starts*, *Streike-(Streiks)*, *Verandas-Veranden*, *Wasserklosette-Wasserklosetts*. *Albatros*, *Joule*, *Kaukus*, and *Sassafras* take no ending to form the plural, while *Mumps* is used as a singular masculine substantive. *Boykott*, *Catgut*, *Fashion*, *Humbug*, *Komfort*, *Linotype*, *Mimikry*, *Mob*, *Sport*, *Standard*, *Trust*, and *Zitz* are employed only in the singular.

Among the words that have adopted the plural of the second class strong outright may be mentioned *Ballast*, *Flanell*, *Kiln*, *Mackintosh*, *Mohär*, *Punsch* (pl. *-e* and *-e*), *Report*, *Sarsenett*, *Schlips*, *Skalp*, *Speech*, *Sterling*, *Tank*, *Test*, *Toast*, *Trucksystem*, *Twist*, *Verdikt*, and *Warp*. *Import* sometimes follows this class and at other times is weak, while *Buttel* (=bottle, cf. *Robber* for rubber), *Fenz*, *Klubbist*, *Steeplechase*, and *Stewardesz* are always weak, as well as the following nouns in *-e*: *Antilope*, *Boleine*, *Bowle*, *(Bull)dogge*, *Gallone*, *Guinee*, *Karronade*, *Schaluppe*, and *Schmack(e)*. As we saw above

in connection with *Alderman(n)*, a variation in the form of the word is likely to affect the formation of the plural; witness furthermore *Anschoven-Anchovis* (1902), but now *Anschovis*, *Loren-Loris-Lowries* (1902), and *Mohairs* (1902)-*Mohäre*. The plural of *Biester* is *Biester*.

In the case of the genitive singular greater regularity is observed, feminine loan-words naturally taking no ending, while masculine and neuter stems add the strong *-s*, *-(e)s*, or *-es*. The following exceptions, however, may be noted: No ending or *-s* (or *-es*)—*Gentleman*, *Joule*, *Lunch*, *Mais*, *Standard*, *Tory*, *Yankee Doodle*; no ending—*Albatros*, *Corned beef*, *Kaukus*, *Lawn-Tennis*, *Misz*, *Mumps*, *Sassafras*, *Trade-Mark*. That there is a marked tendency to adopt the German genitive ending is shown by the fact that in 1902 the following words all permitted no ending or *-s* (or *-es*) in the gen. sing., whereas in the latest edition only the *-s* (or *-es*) form is permitted: *Baby*, *Curry*, *Dandy*, *Essay*, *Flammeri*, *Flirt*, *Interview*, *Kommodore*, *Mohair*, *Mokassin*, *Oddfellow*, *Opossum*, *Paddock*, *Paddy*, *Palaver*, *Peer*, *Penny*, *Poll*, *Pony*, *Propeller*, *Rowdy*, *Sherry*, *Tilbury*, *Teetotaler*, *Whisky*, and *Whist*. *Dogge* (masc.) and *Klubbist* are weak, while *Bulldogg(e)* (masc.) is sometimes strong and sometimes weak.

In connection with the gender, the chief variation is found between the masculine and the neuter, quite naturally, since the words of these genders are most closely allied in inflection. Thus we find *der* and *das Break* (officially only *der*), *Bumerang*, *Finish*, *Lift*, *Makadam*, *Match*, *Moleskin* (but notice *der Buckskin*), *Plaid*, *Pony*, *Schrapnell*, *Trick*, *Velvet*, and *Wigwam*. Other combinations are *die* and *das Interview*, *der* and *die Lias*, and *der* and *die Tramway*. In the case of *der* and *die Dogge* and *der Bulldogg(e)* beside *die Bulldogge*, the gender is of course influenced by the sex.

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